

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A headband arrangement for applying a breathing mask to a user and having a flexible band body comprising upper and lower band portions for transmitting the mask holding forces required for applying the breathing mask, the upper band portion adapted to transmit mask holding forces to an upper portion of the mask and the lower band portion adapted to transmit mask holding forces to a lower portion of the mask, wherein at least portions of the band body are made of a foamed plastic material,

wherein the band body includes a tensile proof insert embedded in the foamed plastic material, the tensile proof insert including a locking structure uncovered by the foamed plastic material, and further comprising a slide element attached to the locking structure in an adjustable manner.

2. (Previously Presented) The headband arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the band body is formed by injecting a pore-forming plastic material in a molding space of a tool.

3. (Previously Presented) The headband arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the plastic material has a skin in the area of its outer surface.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The headband arrangement according to claim 41, wherein the insert is a dimensionally stable insert.

6. (Currently Amended) The headband arrangement according to claim 41, wherein the locking structure is structured to couple a band bracket portion in an adjustable manner.

7. (Currently Amended) The headband arrangement according to claim 41, wherein the locking structure is formed integrally with the foamed plastic material.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The headband arrangement according to claim 81, wherein the slide element comprises a locking mechanism to lock the slide element on the locking structure.

Claims 10-21 (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A headband arrangement for a mask, comprising:
an upper headband portion adapted to transmit mask holding forces to an upper portion of the mask and a lower headband portion adapted to transmit mask holding forces to a lower portion of the mask,
at least one headband portion of the upper and lower headband portions including a longitudinal recess and a mask connector in the form of an insert embedded into the recess of

the at least one headband portion, the mask connector structured to allow the mask to be attached to the headband arrangement in an adjustable manner,

wherein the at least one headband portion is made of a foamed plastic material, and the insert is a tensile stiff insert embedded in the foamed plastic material, and the tensile stiff insert includes a locking structure uncovered by the foamed plastic material, and further comprising a slide element slidably engaged with the locking structure.

Claims 23-26 (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) A headband arrangement according to claim ~~26~~22, wherein the slide element includes a locking mechanism to lock the slide element on the locking structure.

28. (Currently Amended) A headband arrangement according to claim ~~26~~22, wherein the slide element includes a bracket structured to receive a band portion that interconnects the slide element and the mask.

29. (Currently Amended) A headband arrangement according to claim ~~23~~22, wherein the insert is integrally formed with the foamed plastic material.

30. (Currently Amended) A headband arrangement according to claim ~~23~~22, wherein the foamed plastic material comprises a cushion layer adapted to engage the user's face in use.

31. (Previously Presented) The headband arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the upper and lower band portions are made of foamed plastic material.

32. (Previously Presented) The headband arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the upper and lower band portions include a pair of upper and lower band portions for transmitting the mask holding forces.

33. (Withdrawn) A breathing mask arrangement, comprising:
a mask; and
the headband arrangement according to claim 22.

Claims 34-50 (Canceled).

51. (Currently Amended) A headband arrangement for applying a breathing mask to a user and having a flexible band body comprising upper and lower band portions for transmitting the mask holding forces required for applying the breathing mask, the upper band portion adapted to transmit mask holding forces to an upper portion of the mask and the lower band portion adapted to transmit mask holding forces to a lower portion of the mask, wherein at least portions of the band body are made of a foamed plastic material including molded foam, wherein the band body includes a tensile proof insert embedded in the foamed plastic material, the tensile proof insert including a locking structure uncovered by the foamed plastic

material, and further comprising a slide element attached to the locking structure in an adjustable manner.

52. (Currently Amended) The headband arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the upper band portion is adapted to extend over ~~the patient's~~ a user's ear and the lower band portion is adapted to extend below ~~the patient's~~ a user's ear.

53. (Currently Amended) The headband arrangement according to claim 51, wherein the upper band portion is adapted to extend over ~~the patient's~~ a user's ear and the lower band portion is adapted to extend below ~~the patient's~~ a user's ear.